United Nations A/60/407

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 October 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Agenda item 43
Culture of peace

Letter dated 29 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the outcome document unanimously adopted by the meeting of Foreign Ministers of member countries of the International Committee for the Development of Lumbini held on 16 September 2005 at United Nations Headquarters, on the sidelines of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could kindly circulate the attached text as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly under item 43 of the agenda.

(*Signed*) Madhu Raman **Acharya**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

05-53501 (E) 061005

Annex to the letter dated 29 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Outcome document of the Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the member States of the International Committee for the Development of Lumbini, New York, 16 September 2005

1. At the invitation of Ramesh Nath Pandey, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Nepal, a meeting of Foreign Ministers and representatives of member countries of the International Committee for the Development of Lumbini (ICDL), comprising Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand, was held on 16 September 2005 at United Nations Headquarters, on the sidelines of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly.

2. The Foreign Ministers and representatives expressed their appreciation to His Majesty's Government of Nepal for having hosted the meeting and provided a briefing on the current state of development of Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, Apostle of Peace.

3. They further expressed their sincere gratitude to His Majesty the King of Nepal for his inspiring message to the meeting.

4. They noted with appreciation the efforts made by His Majesty's Government of Nepal for the implementation of the master plan for the development of Lumbini since its adoption in 1978.

5. They noted with satisfaction that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has included Lumbini on the list of World Heritage sites.

6. The Foreign Ministers and representatives reaffirmed that the values of peace, non-violence, compassion, friendship and cooperation embodied in the teachings of Lord Buddha are more relevant to the contemporary world than ever before.

7. They reiterated their commitment of international support to the full implementation of the master plan and urged the international community to extend its cooperation to the Lumbini Development Trust in this regard.

8. They urged the United Nations and its agencies to consider their cooperation to complement the national efforts of Nepal for the development of Lumbini.

9. The Foreign Ministers and representatives noted with appreciation the presentation of the study entitled "Vision and Scoping: Lumbini the Foundation of World Peace" carried out by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2000.

10. They recognized the following:

- Making Lumbini a world peace city and fountain of peace
- Simultaneous development of other Buddhist sites near Lumbini
- Socio-economic uplifting of the local population, including poverty alleviation

- Developing Lumbini as an international tourist destination and as a hub for other Buddhist sites in the region
- The importance of preserving a pristine environment and the sanctity of the cultural heritage of Lumbini.

11. The Foreign Ministers and representatives agreed:

- To reactivate the International Committee for the Development of Lumbini, and directed the Permanent Representatives of the member countries of the Committee to meet at least once a year to take stock of the development of Lumbini. The Committee may form a small working group of experts to help it, if necessary
- To consider measures for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the study carried out by UNDP in 2000, including through the involvement of the United Nations system and other international organizations
- To recommend to the United Nations system to update the study, taking into account the new developments concerning Lumbini
- To welcome China, Mongolia, Viet Nam and others if they wish to join the Committee as members.

12. They appreciated the offer of His Majesty's Government of Nepal to host the next meeting of the International Committee for the Development of Lumbini at Lumbini.